

Committee Attendance: Kelly Cameron, Michael Gelman, Paul Goldberg, Jose Zegarra Holder, Mona Hall McKenzie, Mike Reiter, Suzanne Weiss, and Richard Wells
Absent: Bing Kung, Treffaney Lowe, Noreene Wells, Ben Wu.
Cable Office Staff: Keith Watkins
Guests: Dick Lipsky, Merlyn Reineke, Melissa Pace, Donna Keating, Josh Bokee

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Minutes of February meeting

- Kelly Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Richard Wells and passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Mike Reiter and also approved without dissent.

Presentation by PEG representatives

Handouts were distributed in advance of the meeting. PEG managers presented overview of their activities and the many ways they serve the residents of Montgomery County. Dick Lipsky thanked the CCAC for their support and identified the many ways they have cut back on programming, operations and staff. They are able to track some activity through low- or no- cost analytics. Montgomery Community Media highlighted the expansion to beyond tv and their 25th anniversary. Melissa Pace explained the many types of students they try to reach through tv. County Cable Montgomery is continuing their work. A discussion followed of the collaborative efforts of the PEGs as well as the success of watchlocaltv.org. Mitsi encouraged everyone to testify to the Council on aspects of PEG programs.

Questions on any additional items that could be eliminated from PEGs brought out how severe the financial impact has been on not only programming—MCPS is down to 1 channel for programs, some subtitles and translations are lagging, equipment and software purchasing and even maintenance is suffering. Staff and training has been slashed—alternative work sources like interns and students have other “costs.” Most have lost use of specialized contractors, and other key contributors to quality.

Old Business

- Cable Plan/PEG budgets: Kelly will sign up to testify to the Council and will send out draft testimony to committee members.
- Member Recruitment: The interview committee has submitted their recommendations to the CE office. Treffaney has resigned. Mitsi reported that the CE office indicates the Council will approve the appointments at the April 5 meeting, including a candidate for the Rockville seat. Kelly will follow up on the letter to the County Executive’s office requesting a change be made to our quorum requirements.
- 2010 Annual Report: Suzanne presented a letter for the Council and County Executive to fulfill our annual reporting. Michael made a motion to send this out; there was no dissent. Kelly will send to the CE and Councilmembers on behalf of the CCAC.
- Upcoming Elections: Kelly again reminded the committee that his term was up in May and elections would be held. All committee members are encouraged to consider the positions.

New Business

- Comcast-NBC Universal Merger: Josh covered merger highlights and entertained questions on the cable guide and PEGs, 911, mobile apps and non-tv viewing franchise fees.

Cable Office Report

- Mitsi anticipates the Cable Plan will be reviewed at the Council's GO meeting on April 13 at 2pm.
- She will work with Keith asap to see if the new vacancy can be filled from the report previously submitted by the interview committee.

Public Comments

none

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Submitted by: Suzanne Weiss, CCAC Secretary